

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Mieko SAKAI et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2001\_0489A

Filed April 23, 2001

HIGH-HARDNESS, SOFT COMPOSITE MATERIAL

[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/05843

Filed October 22, 1999]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title of the invention, please insert +This application is a 371 application of PCT/JP99/05843 filed October 22, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-19 as follows:

3. (Amended) The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic components comprise an aggregate component of a 2 to 70 mesh size, and a fine particle component of a small particle size of 100 mesh or smaller.